

THE FOUR SHIRES GUILD OF BELLRINGERS

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

held at St David's Church, Moreton-in-Marsh on Saturday 19th October 2024

Present: Officers & Committee:

Chris Povey (Vice President)

Peter Quinn (Guild Master), Alison Lee (Ringing Master), Claire Penny (Secretary)

Graham Lee; Len Morley, Nick Allsopp, Stuart Cummings, Lena Stranks, Christina Ireland

Approx 28 Guild Members

1. Apologies for absence

Michael Dane (Treasurer), Alison Hodge, , Chris Tennant, Kathy McCarthy, Lizzy Tennant, Lucy Tennant, Martin Penny, Roger Hunt, Sarah Elliott.

2. Agree minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last AGM had been posted on the Guild website. The secretary gave copies to those present who requested them.

The minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting held on 21st October at Todenham were agreed as a true record and signed by Peter Quinn; proposed by Jess McCarthy and seconded by Len Morley.

3. Matters arising from the minutes.

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

4. Reports

Both the Guild Master's and Treasurer's reports had been published in the previous newsletters and there was no request to present them at the meeting. They will be published on the website with the minutes of this meeting.

5. Election of President

Richard Lewis-Skeath, the current President, was not present. There were no other nominations so Richard was returned to Office.

Election of Vice Presidents

Chris Povey and Rev Dr Peter Newing (Guild Chaplain) continued their term of office (three years). There were no other nominations.

6. Election of Officers

All the Guild Officers indicated their willingness to continue in post. There were no other nominations for any position and the following were returned to office:

Guild Master – Peter Quinn

Ringing Master – Alison Lee

Secretary – Claire Penny

Treasurer – Michael Dane

7. Election of Committee Members

Nick Allsopp had previously indicated that he wished to stand down.

The following members were unanimously re-elected:

Christina Ireland

Graham Lee

Len Morley

Stuart Cummings

Lena Stranks

Yvonne Davies was proposed by Niel Garner and seconded by Alison Lee. There were no other nominations and Yvonne was elected to the committee.

8. Election of Accounts Examiner

Martin Penny agreed to continue as accounts examiner. There were no other nominations and Martin was re-elected unanimously.

Election of CCCBR representatives

The Guild is entitled to two representatives on the Central Council. Chris Povey had previously indicated his intention to stand down, and the other post was vacant.

Jess McCarthy was proposed by Chris Tennant and seconded by Claire Penny. There were no other nominations, therefore Jess was elected and the other post remains vacant.

9. Confirmation of New Members since the 2022 AGM

- Fladbury: Lou Simpson, Christine Baxter, Julian Richardson
- Tysoe: Muriel Paxton, Alison Cross, Graham Collier, Kelvin Johnston, Linda Leonard
- Tredington: Harrie Claire
- Winchcombe: Christine Burnett
- Unattached: Nigel Dicks, Sally Dicks, Bridget Taylor, Maxine Browning

10. Increase of annual subscription to £10.00

In the absence of the treasurer Len Morley explained to the meeting that the committee were proposing a rise in the subscription to £10 for adults and £4 for juniors. The CCCBR were increasing the affiliation fee from 20p per member to 40p per member in 2025 and it would rise to £1 per member in 2026. In light of this and other increasing costs the committee felt a rise in subscription fees was necessary and, as the last rise was over 10 years ago, a jump to £10 was appropriate. The members present agreed that this was still good value. Stuart Cummings explained that there was a significant increase in printing and posting costs for producing hard copy newsletters and Christina Ireland suggested that those requiring printed copies should pay extra. Stuart responded that there was already a £3.00 surcharge for a printed newsletter.

Len Morley formally proposed the rise, this was seconded by Sue Bacon and carried unanimously.

11. Changes to the striking competition rules.

Alison Lee explained to the meeting that some minor changes to the rules had been suggested by some previous judges. These had been published in the magazine and on the website prior to the meeting (attached). There was one additional rule to consider for the Brazier Trophy: that at least one member of the band shall not be able to ring a method on an inside bell.

There was some discussion about how the amendments would work in practice, but no other changes were suggested and there were no objections.

Alison Lee proposed that these changes be adopted from the 2025 competition, seconded by Claire Penny and agreed unanimously.

12. Any other business

Stuart Cummings proposed a vote of thanks to the judges Keith and Isobel Murphy (Brazier Trophy) and Chris Povey (Newing Shield), to Peter Banton for taking the service, Steve Bowley for playing the organ, Alison Lee and Nick Allsopp for organising the event, Christina Ireland for organising the food, and to everyone who contributed to it.

There being no other business the meeting closed.